

SPECIFICATION

On page 53-54, please replace the paragraph starting on line 24 with the following:

The system may, in operational form, comprise either a single exchange node or two or more exchange nodes. Each exchange node consists of a computer system or local area network of [[a]] computer systems. When the system includes a single exchange node, operation on a stand-alone basis is contemplated, and each exchange node, without alteration or addition, has the capability to operate on a stand-alone basis. When an exchange node operates on its own, it does not utilize all of its capabilities, *e.g.*, inter-nodal communications capability.

On page 73, please replace the paragraph starting on line 16 with the following:

A unit-divided load search involves manipulating the interval load data interval by interval for both the load of the exchange user requesting the search and the load being evaluated during the search. Since both loads are being modified during the load search process, this process is a form of dynamic load division. With the interval load data [['s']] being modified dynamically, the impacts on both the prime load and target load need to be evaluated on the basis of whether the benefits of load shifting ("load impact benefits") are to be shared or not. The significance of shared load impact benefits is greater for the implementation of an optimization load search since load can be moved to or from both the prime load and the target load. For a retail load search, there are load impact benefits to the prime (ESP) load, and there may be load impact benefits to the target (customer) load, but such benefits are achieved only by moving load from the target load of the customer to the prime load of the ESP. Therefore, since unit division can be implemented to the greatest extent during an optimization load search, the unit division techniques will be described from this perspective with the modifications necessary for a retail load search stated as exceptions.

On page 88, please replace the sentence on line 18 with the following:

I. III.B.2(a)(iii)(B) — Resulting [[Reusltng]] Load Impact Value Decreases.

On page 95, please replace the paragraph starting on line 6 with the following:

If the load search is also to be performed outside of the exchange database of the concerned exchange node, the complete load search request is sent to the inter-nodal communications handler ~~[[hander]]~~ for routing to the other exchange nodes.

On page 106, please replace the paragraph starting on line 3 with the following:

If an optimization price search has been requested, an optimization price search request, then the optimization price search engine is invoked. Otherwise, trades between customers and ESPs are desired, and the retail price search engine is used. The exchange node will wait for the appropriate price search engine to complete the search of the exchange database as well as to receive ~~[[the of]]~~ any network price search results sent to the exchange node via the inter-nodal communications handler.

On page 106, please replace the paragraph starting on line 9 with the following:

The local price search results and the network price search results will be combined for return to the appropriate requesting exchange user. If the price search request originated from an exchange user connected to another exchange node on the exchange network, then the price search results are sent ~~[[seat]]~~ to the inter-nodal communications handler for transmission to the originating exchange node. If an exchange user made a local price search request, then the local price search results are returned to the man-machine interface for display to the exchange user. The price search system then waits for further price search requests.

On page 106, please replace the paragraph starting on line 26 with the following:

A table display of information concerning exchange trades found during the price search is provided to the exchange users. The exchange user is provided with the ability to sort the table based on the various columns and scroll within the table in the case that there are more entries than can be displayed on a single screen. Printing of the information is also supported. The exchange user also has the option to request more detailed information on an entry than is listed in the table. The exchange user can point and click on the entry of interest, and a complete summary ~~[[summery]]~~ of the information on the load will be provided along with graphing capabilities. The load

involved in the exchange trade as well as the before and after loads of the participants in the exchange trade can be graphed if appropriate. Printing is also supported for the detail display.

On page 122, please replace the paragraph starting on line 14 with the following:

As noted above, if the decision made at step 104 is positive, that is, that ESP loads are to be searched, the process then goes directly to step 122 at which the discrete load values that are not available in the normalized data for the customer load are calculated, for the time period of the search, from the interval load data for the searching customer. The next ESP load is then fetched, as indicated at 124, after which a decision is made, as indicated at 126, whether there are [[at]] any further ESP loads to be searched. If the decision made at step 126 is affirmative, the discrete and impact criteria are set to the ESP's default search criteria, as indicated at 130, and then, as indicated at 132, the discrete load identification criteria specified for the newly searched ESP are compared to the load identification information for the customer load. If this comparison is unsuccessful in obtaining a suitable match between the customer and the ESP, the process returns to step 124 and a new ESP load is fetched. If the comparison made at step 132 is positive, the normalized data for the customer load for the time period of the search is compared to the discrete load criteria specified by the ESP, as indicated at 134. As in step 132, if the comparison fails, the process is returned to step 124 to fetch a new ESP load.

On page 126, please replace the paragraph starting on line 19 with the following:

If the searched ESP is thus excluded, the process returns to step 156 to fetch a new ESP load. If the searched ESP load is determined to be available for load-shifting, a comparison is made, as indicated at step 164, between the discrete load criteria specified at 96 by the ESP requesting the optimization load search to the normalized data for the ESP load being searched. If the comparison fails, the process returns to step 156 to fetch the next ESP load. If the comparison between the data succeeds, a comparison is then made, as indicated at step 166 (Fig. 6B), between the discrete criteria specified by the ESP making the optimization search request to the discrete load values calculated for the

ESP load fetched for the time period of the search. To this end, the discrete load values for the time [[time]] period of the search are calculated and compared to the load characteristic criteria. If the comparison fails, the process returns to step 156. Otherwise, control passes to step 168.

On page 133, please replace the paragraph starting on line 9 with the following:

If this comparison fails, the process returns to step 218 to fetch the next retail trade to be considered. If it passes, the retail [[.]] trade being considered is added to the qualified trade list, as indicated at 232, and the process returns to step 218 to fetch the next retail trade. Information concerning the thus qualified retail trade includes the customer's ID information, trade and pricing information, customer load identification information, discrete load values stored with the exchange trade, load impact values stored with the exchange trade, and customer and ESP interval load data used for the exchange trade. The retail search engine then fetches the next retail trade. The process of fetching retail trades and performing comparisons continues until there are no more retail trades to analyze. The retail price search engine then returns the qualified retail trade list and exits.

On page 134, please replace the paragraph starting on line 8 with the following:

In the event the comparison at step 240 fails, the process returns to step 234 and the next optimization trade is fetched for analysis. If the comparison at step indicates a satisfactory match between the requesting and offeree ESPs load characteristics, the process proceeds to step 242 (Fig. 9B) at which a comparison is made to determine the availability of load impact values. In this step, if the requesting ESP requires that load impact values be considered, and if the offeror-ESP involved in the optimization trade under consideration has indicated in [[(]]the applicable exchange database that load impact values are not to be disclosed, then the optimization trade is to be excluded from the optimization price search. If this is the case, the optimization trade under consideration is excluded and the process returns to step 234 and the next optimization trade is fetched for analysis. If the optimization trade is determined at step 242 to be available, the process continues to step 244 at which the impact criteria specified by the

requesting ESP are compared to the load impact values for the offeror-ESP involved in the optimization trade as calculated from the interval load data of the impact load or segment stored in the trade history tables.

On page 136, please replace the paragraph starting on line 3 with the following:

After an exchange trade is proposed at 250, a determination is made at step 252 of which [[of the]] loads involved in the trade are local loads, that is, loads that are registered in the local exchange node, and which loads are registered on remote exchange nodes on the exchange network (network loads). For network loads located on other exchange nodes, those exchange nodes are notified via the internodal communications handler 34 that the loads registered on those exchange nodes are part of a proposed trade as indicated at step 254. This notification allows each exchange node to log the fact that an exchange trade is proposed for a load registered on that exchange node and to respond with a message acknowledging that the notification of the proposed trade has been received and is being processed as indicated at 256.